forest lands in their names. However, for purposes other than non-forest purposes, forest land can be assigned to any authority, corporation, agency or any other organisation wholly owned, managed or controlled by concerned State/Union Territory Government and/ or Central Government. For assigning forest land for such purposes by way of lease or otherwise to any person or to any authority, corporation, agency or. any other organisation not owned, managed or controlled by Government, prior approval of the Government of India is required as per provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. For diversion of forest land for any non-forest purpose to both Government as well as non-Government agencies, prior approval of the Central Government is required under the same Act. Although, there is no ceiling to the extent of such diversion each case of diversion of forest land is examined carefully after ascertaining nonavailability of non forest land and taking into account the likely adverse impact of diversion on the environment including flora and fauna and ensuring that the demand for the forest area is the barest minimum. Each case of diversion of forest land is scrutinized and recommended by the concerned State/ Union Territory Government before its submission for approval to the Central Government. While according approval, appropriate safeguards, including carrying out of compensatory afforestation, are stipulated to compensate for the diversion of forest area.

(d) and (e) Limits and conditions of holding of agricultural lands by the companies will vary from State to State and will be governed by the relevant land related Acts and Rules of the concerned State.

गुजरात के उद्योगों को भूमि का आवंटन

2429. **श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) ऐसे उद्योगों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं जिन्हें गुजरात के कच्छ के जंगलों में अभयारण्य हेतु सुरक्षित रखी गई जमीन उद्योग लगाने हेतु दे दी गई है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि ऐसे उद्योगों को स्थापित करने से पर्यावरण को नुकसान होगा;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या इस मामले को राज्य सरकार के साथ उठाया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उस पर राज्य सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

पर्यावरण और वन [illegible] के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Illegal Trade of Animal Skins

2430. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal trade in animals' skins is flourishing in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the laws to curb illegal trade are ineffective and obsolete;

(c) if so, the number of cases of illegal trade-in animal skins which came to the notice of Government during the last one year;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this connection and action taken as per law; and

(e) what -further amendments Government propose to take to make the law more meaningful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, are effective in